



Vietnam Veterans Health Services

INTRODUCTION

VA Butler Healthcare THANKS YOU for your service to our country and we want you to know we are here for ***you***.

This short guide provides information about the many VA services and benefits *you* have earned and are eligible for.

**Talk to our Vietnam Veterans Coordinator
or visit us today!**

"I am very happy with the care I get here [VA Butler Healthcare]. I get my physicals here every year, my flu shot, and other health services as needed for my primary care. People here are happy to serve Veterans; it really shows."

Dennis McCune, Vietnam Veteran

For information call 800.362.8262, ext. 4437



PRIMARY CARE SERVICES

VA Butler's Primary Care Team is your personal health care provider, advisor and coordinator for referring you to specialists both in and out of the VA system. Each team consists of a Primary Care Provider, Nurse, Social Worker, Pharmacist, Dietitian, Psychologist and Health Technician.

We offer a wide range of treatment programs, placing a special focus on health care prevention.

Services available to YOU

- Cancer screenings
- High cholesterol treatment
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) treatment
- Diabetes prevention and treatment
- Flu vaccine
- High blood pressure prevention and treatment
- Treatment for obesity
- Osteoporosis treatment
- Prostate disease prevention and treatment
- Smoking cessation



Schedule an appointment with your Primary Care Provider (PCP) by calling 800.362.8262, ext. 2294 or 724.285.2294

CALL US TODAY!



PRIMARY CARE SERVICES

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



Mental Health is how we think, feel, and behave. Just like physical health, mental health is important at every stage of life and is essential to overall health. You can learn more at www.mentalhealth.va.gov or www.myhealth.va.gov >research health> mental health (screening tools).

VA Butler Healthcare offers a wide range of mental health services for Vietnam Veterans.

We provide consultation, evaluation and treatment for a variety of issues that can impact your life. Some of the most common mental health issues we treat include depression, substance abuse, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Treatments we provide include medication management and individual, group, and couples therapy. Treatment is provided by mental health professionals: psychiatrists, social workers, psychologists, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists and nurses.

For information call 800.362.8262, ext. 5039 or 724.477.5039

**It takes the courage
and strength of a warrior...
to ask for help.**

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
800.273.TALK (8255)





POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is an anxiety disorder that can occur after you have been through a traumatic event, like that experienced in combat.

You are not alone...

About 30% of the men and women who served in Vietnam experience PTSD. An additional 20 to 25% have had partial PTSD at some point in their lives.

Treating PTSD

PTSD is treated by a variety of forms of psychotherapy (talk therapy), pharmacotherapy (medication), and cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) – which appears to be the most effective treatment. It involves working with cognitions or thoughts to change emotions, thoughts and behaviors.

The first step in PTSD treatment at VA Butler Healthcare is an evaluation to decide whether a diagnosis of PTSD is appropriate. Then, a potential next step is the PTSD Basic Training class, an eight-week educational class to provide information related to PTSD. Following that, you work with your case manager to decide on the best treatment approach for you.

For information call 800.362.8262, ext. 5039 or 724.477.5039

**If you or someone you know
is in need of an evaluation
for PTSD, call us today.**



AGENT ORANGE

Agent Orange was an herbicide used in Vietnam to kill unwanted plants and to remove leaves from trees that provided cover for the enemy. The name, “Agent Orange” comes from the orange stripe on the 55-gallon drums where it was stored.

Diseases from Agent Orange Exposure

VA recognizes certain diseases connected with exposure to Agent Orange:

- **Acute and Subacute Peripheral Neuropathy**
Condition of the nerves outside the brain and spinal cord that causes numbness, tingling, and muscle weakness
- **AL Amyloidosis**
Rare disease that can affect different organs in different people, but commonly affects the heart, kidneys, liver, spleen, nervous system, stomach and intestine
- **Chloracne (or Similar Acneform Disease)**
A skin condition that looks like common forms of acne often seen in teenagers
- **Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia and Other Chronic B Cell Leukemias**
Type of cancer that affects white blood cells
- **Diabetes (Type 2)**
A disease characterized by high blood sugar levels





AGENT ORANGE

- **Hodgkin's Disease**

Cancer of the lymphatic system, which is part of your immune system

- **Parkinson's Disease**

Disease that affects movement with symptoms like trembling hands and loss of facial expression

- **Porphyria Cutanea Tarda**

Disorder with thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas

- **Prostate Cancer**

Cancer that occurs in a man's prostate

- **Respiratory Cancers**

Cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea and bronchus

- **Soft Tissue Sarcoma (other than Osteosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or Mesothelioma)**

A group of different types of cancers in body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels and connective tissues

Eligibility for Health Care Benefits

VA healthcare benefits are open to all Veterans. If you served in Vietnam or another area where Agent Orange was sprayed, you do not have to prove you were exposed to Agent Orange in order to get VA healthcare benefits for diseases associated with Agent Orange exposure.

Veterans who served in Vietnam during the war are also eligible for a complete physical examination. If a VA physician suspects a disease might be related to Agent Orange, VA will provide free medical care. Those who participate in the examination program become part of an Agent Orange Registry and receive periodic mailings from VA about the latest Agent Orange studies and new diseases being covered under VA policies.

For more information call 800.362.8262, ext. 4445 or 724.287.4781, ext. 4445

**For the Agent Orange Hotline call 800.749.8387, press 3
www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange**

DIABETES (TYPE 2)

Diabetes is a condition that occurs when the body can't process glucose (a type of sugar) normally.

YOU might have Type 2 Diabetes if...

- ✓ You are thirsty most of the time
- ✓ You are hungry even though you eat enough
- ✓ You are tired all the time
- ✓ You need to urinate a lot
- ✓ You notice things look blurry
- ✓ You get a sore that doesn't heal

We are Here to Help

Diabetes can be overwhelming. Support from family, friends and other people living with diabetes helps those with diabetes manage their disease from day to day. VA Butler's *Diabetes Support Group* meets every Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We also offer a monthly *Diabetes Self-Management Education Program for Veterans*. Veterans are provided with information they need to control their diabetes and slow down or prevent complications of the disease. Classes are on the third Thursday of each month from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For information call 800.362.8262, ext. 5024 or 724.477.5024



HOMELESS SERVICES

Healthcare for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) helps homeless Veterans get access to appropriate healthcare and benefits. Treatment including primary care, substance abuse and mental health are all available.

It's not just you...

Veterans who served in the Vietnam-era make up 47% of the homeless Veteran population.

VA Butler Healthcare is here to help *you* improve your quality of life through a variety of VA benefits and services.

- Grant and Per Diem Program
- Department of Housing and Urban Development and Department of Veterans Affairs Supported Housing (HUD-VASH)
- Domiciliary Care Program
- Stand Down
- Veteran Justice Outreach Initiative
- Health Care for Re-entry Veteran Services
- Supportive Services for Low-Income Veterans
- Homeless Veterans Dental Program
- National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans
- Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups (CHALENG)

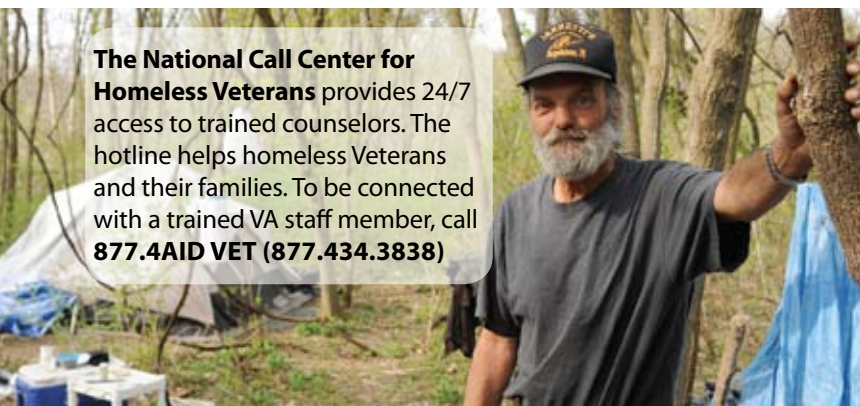
You don't need to be on the streets anymore...

For information or help, call 800.362.8262, ext. 2439 or 724.285.2439



HOMELESS SERVICES

The National Call Center for Homeless Veterans provides 24/7 access to trained counselors. The hotline helps homeless Veterans and their families. To be connected with a trained VA staff member, call **877.4AID VET (877.434.3838)**



ELIGIBILITY



Basic Eligibility

If you served in the active military, naval, or air service and are separated under any condition other than Dishonorable, you may qualify for VA health care benefits. Current and former members of the Reserves or National Guard

who were called to active duty (other than for training only) by a Federal order and completed the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty may be eligible for VA health benefits and services.

You may be eligible for benefits despite your financial situation. If you served in country (on land, water, or air) between 1962-1975 you are likely to receive benefits. There are other special situations as well that may make you eligible regardless of income and assets. So please contact us so we can help you determine your eligibility.

Take a few minutes online to find out if you're eligible

www.va.gov/healtheligibility ★ or call the Veterans Health Care Benefits/Eligibility Service Center: 877.222.VETS (8387)

Am I Still Eligible?

Vietnam Veterans who have never come to the VA are still almost always eligible for VA care. Even if you did not feel comfortable coming to see us for 30 or 40 years, we still want to hear from you now. In most cases, all that is required is an Honorable Discharge or even a General Discharge. If you have a DD-214 Discharge Paper, come see us, we'll get you registered, and then we'll take it from there!

ENROLLMENT

Enroll Today!

All Vietnam Veterans are encouraged to enroll at VA Butler Healthcare. To begin the application process, for enrollment, complete VA Form 10-10-EZ, APPLICATION FOR HEALTH BENEFITS. You can get the application online or by visiting, calling, or writing the VA Butler Healthcare Pre-Registration Office.

Visit us!

VA Butler Healthcare
325 New Castle Road
Butler, PA 16001

Call us!

Toll free:
800.362.8262, ext. 5011
Direct dial:
724.477.5011

Go online!

www.va.gov/health_eligibility

VA Butler Healthcare's Pre-Registration Office is located in our Primary Care Department. Completed applications may be submitted in person or by mail. A copy of your DD-214 Discharge Paper will be needed for the enrollment process.

After the application is processed, the VA Health Eligibility Center in Atlanta, GA will contact you via mail of your enrollment status and priority group assignment. If you requested an appointment you will be contacted by VA Butler Healthcare to schedule a new patient appointment.

**For information call the VA Butler Pre-Registration Office
800.362.8262, ext. 5011 or 724.477.5011**



ENROLLMENT



Thank You for your Service



Vietnam Veterans Coordinator

800.362.8262, ext. 4437

Specialty Exams Clerk

(Agent Orange)

724.287.4781, ext. 4445

Homeless Program Coordinator

800.362.8262, ext. 2439

724.285.2439

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

800.273.TALK (8255)

Schedule an Appointment

800.362.8262, ext. 2294

724.285.2294

Women Veterans Coordinator

800.362.8262, ext. 2756

724.285.2756

Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator

800.362.8262, ext. 2240

724.285.2240



325 New Castle Road

Butler, PA 16001

800.362.8262 ★ **724.287.4781**

www.va.gov



butler.va.gov



facebook.com/VAButlerPA



twitter.com/VAButlerPA



talkshoe.com/tc/85029